

Remarks

Claims 1 and 3-11 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 7-11 are amended, herein for clarification. Support for the amendment is provided in the specification and the figures, for example, in Fig. 3. No new matter has been entered.

Claims 1 and 3-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schuegraf et al (US 5,624,865) in view of Lee et al (US 2002/0068466) and further in view of Thakur (US 5,407,534). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In an Examiner Interview conducted on January 10, 2006, Applicant and Examiner Toniae Thomas discussed the rejections of independent claims 1, and 7-11. In the interview, the Examiner agreed that none of the above cited references taught or suggested a semiconductor structure comprising a lower electrode layer, which defines a lateral portion which extends at least partially along the upper surface of the insulating layer. Specifically, the examiner acknowledged that Thakur was directed to an electrode layer extending vertically; however Thakur fails to teach a lateral portion extending at least partially along the upper surface of the insulating layer.

Schuegraf and Lee, either singularly or in combination, fail to teach this claim limitation, and thus fails to cure the deficiency of Thakur. Due to this teaching deficiency in the cited art references, the examiner fails to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, thus the rejection under §103 should be removed.

The Applicants respectfully submit that, in view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the

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undersigned to resolve efficiently any formal matters or to discuss any aspects of the application or of this response. Otherwise, early notification of allowable subject matter is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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